

THE
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AUGUST TRIP TO RODEO LAGOON IN MARIN COUNTY

A not unusual morning, summer fog on August 16, did not deter approximately forty members from their search for early migrant shore birds. They were rewarded by the thrilling sight of six Wandering Tattlers feeding in the receding breakers on the beach, amongst a flock of Willets; all three species of Phalaropes in one scope, and a flock of Heermann's Gulls. Many species of immatures were seen, including White-crowned and Golden-Crowned Sparrows, Oregon Juncos, House Finches, and three Barn Swallows being fed by their parent. A perfect American Goldfinch nest was discovered about eight feet above the ground in a willow tree. As the group hiked from the Fort Baker tunnel to the beach of Rodeo Lagoon, the fog lifted to the tops of the hills and the still air made for perfect birding weather. The marshes, willow-lined creeks, dry chaparral hillsides, brackish lagoons bordered with tule, and the ocean shore offered a wide variety of habitats. On the steep rocky island off Point Bonita nesting Cormorants and Brown Pelicans were abundant.

Eighty-one species were observed. In addition to those referred to above there were: Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, White-winged and Surf Scooters, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit; Western, California and Ring-billed Gulls; Mourning Dove, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher; Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows; Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Common-bushtit, Wren-tit; House, Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Western Blue bird, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's Vireo; Orange-crowned, Yellow, Audubon's, Macgillivray's, Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warbler; House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird; Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American, Lesser, and Lawrence's Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee, Savannah and Song Sparrow.

—Mrs. Elizabeth S. Lennon and Walter S. Lennon, *Leaders and Historians*

WHOOPING CRANE FLOCK STARTS LONG MIGRATION

Members of the sole surviving flock of whooping cranes are about to begin their perilous fall migration from Canada to Texas. All along the narrow flight corridor that traverses six of the United States and two provinces of Canada hunters are once again being urged, "Don't Shoot Any Large White Bird."

The cranes make their southward trek each year during the waterfowl and upland game bird hunting season. As in the past, the man with the gun represents the greatest threat to the whooper's survival. Intense public interest in the cranes, spurred by private and governmental conservation organization, has in recent years resulted in a sharp decline in losses along the flyway however.

But even a single such loss may be a serious setback to the wild flock's remarkable comeback from the verge of extinction. In 1941 only 15 whooping cranes remained in the Texas flock. The flock numbered 26 birds when it left Texas last spring to fly to its remote wilderness nesting area in Canada's Northwest Territories.

During the summer two pairs of cranes, one with *twins*, the other with a single youngster, have been spotted by aerial surveys. Two other pairs have also been seen. The rest of the birds have remained out of sight in the trackless, uninhabited muskeg and forest country north of the 60th parallel.

What kind of nesting season the cranes may have had this year will probably not be known until the last family group has completed its 2500-mile flight back to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge along the Gulf Coast of Texas sometime around the middle of November.

—National Audubon Society

NOTICE—The *East Bay Utility District Citizen's Committee* has been organized to save the publicly owned 6,500 acres of beautiful land surrounding San Pablo Reservoir. This land has been put up for sale by EBMUD as *surplus*. Pledged to *Save the Land* are two candidates endorsed by the EBMUD Citizen's Committee, Dan Luten, Berkeley, and Anna Bjornson, Oakland. To obtain a speaker or additional information contact Mrs. E. Stone, LA 4-0424.

FIELD NOTES: While camping at Juniper Camp, on Mt. Diablo, on September 20, 1958, my wife and I observed something flitting from one spot to another on the roadway. As it was practically dark, I got out my powerful flashlight and found we were observing a Poor-will making his customary short leaps into the air, in pursuit of insects. We have been camping on Mt. Diablo, from two to six times each year of the past eight, but this is the first we have seen or heard a Poor-will on the mountain.—*Carlyle Sather*.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Audubon members are invited to attend a **SPECIAL CONFERENCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**, which will be held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, on Friday, November 14. Sponsored by the California Conservation Council, the California Department of Natural Resources and the University of California, there will be top-flight speakers exhibits and round table discussion, from 9:15 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. This is an annual affair and is always most interesting.

NEW SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP DUES

Notice has been received from Mr. John H. Baker, President of the National Audubon Society, of an increase in the amounts of membership dues in most categories, effective with September, 1958, renewals. The new schedule was published in Audubon Magazine for September-October, 1958, page 202.

Mr. Baker states in his letter to the branches, July, 1958, "Under the branch plan, dues received from joint memberships, with the exception of life memberships, are divided equally between the National Society and the branch, after deduction of an arbitrary amount for Audubon Magazine. Heretofore, that amount has been \$2.00. As of September renewals, it will be \$2.50."

Of the new amount of a regular joint member's dues of \$6.50 per year, \$2.50 will be allocated for Audubon Magazine (this is half the non-member's subscription price), \$2.00 will be retained by the National Society and \$2.00 will be paid to the treasury of the branch. Thus the local society will receive an increase of 50¢ per year per member. In addition, the National Society will eliminate the student membership category. They find that it has not proved popular or worthwhile.

Mr. Baker points out that the minimum membership dues of the National Society have not been increased since its inception in 1905 and considering the great decrease in the value of the dollar since that time, the board of directors of the Golden Gate Society feels that the new schedule is reasonable and necessary. Furthermore, the board of directors recognizes the need for changes in the by-laws of the Golden Gate Society in order that they may comply with the new schedule of the National Society.

In the matter of student memberships, the Society has had very few and it is recommended that young persons interested in the Society's activities join as full members or participate as Junior Audubon members or as visitors.

Owing to the increased cost of printing and mailing "The Gull," the board of directors of the Golden Gate Society voted to recommend that the annual dues for local membership in the Society be set at \$2.00 and the non-member's subscription rate for "The Gull" at \$1.50.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

In accordance with Article X of the by-laws regarding procedure in amending, the board of directors of the Golden Gate Audubon Society therefore proposes the following amendments to pertinent sections of the by-laws. These amendments will be offered for vote of the members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society at the next regular meeting, November 13, 1958.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

FIRST, that ARTICLE I, SECTION 3(a) be amended to read as follows: "Dues for membership jointly in the Golden Gate and National Audubon Societies shall be payable directly to the National Audubon Society in the following amounts: Regular Members, \$6.50; Sustaining Members, \$12.50; Active Members, \$25.00; Supporting Members, \$50.00, Contributing Members, \$100.00; Life Members, \$300.00. In the Regular category, the rate for Husband-and-Wife Members shall be \$10.00; in the Sustaining category, \$20.00.

SECOND, that ARTICLE I, SECTION 3(b) be amended to read as follows: "Dues for membership locally (Local Membership) in the Golden Gate Audubon Society only shall be payable annually to the treasurer of Golden Gate Audubon Society at the rate of \$2.00.

THIRD, that ARTICLE I, SECTION 3 (d) and 3 (e) be deleted and the present section 3(f) be renumbered 3 (d).

FOURTH, that a new section 3(e) be added to ARTICLE I, to read as follows:

"THE GULL" may be sent to institutions and to non-members outside the membership solicitation territory assigned to the Golden Gate branch by the National Audubon Society, for \$1.50, payable annually to the treasurer of the Golden Gate Audubon Society."

PRESENT WORDING OF THE PERTINENT SECTIONS REFERRED TO IN THE AMENDMENTS:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 3 (a)—Dues for membership in Golden Gate and National Audubon Society shall be payable direct to the National Audubon Society in the following amounts: Regular Members, \$5.00, Sustaining Members, \$10.00; Active Members, \$25.00; Supporting Members, \$50.00; Contributing Members, \$100.00; Life Members, \$200.00. In the regular category, the rate for Husband-and-Wife Members shall be \$8.00; in the Sustaining category, \$18.00. The rate for student members shall be \$2.00.

(b) Dues for membership locally (Local Membership) in the Golden Gate Society only shall be payable to the Treasurer of Golden Gate Society at the rate \$1.50. THE GULL may be sent to institutions and to non-residents of the Bay Area for \$1.00 payable to the Treasurer of the Golden Gate Society.

(d) The Student Membership shall be open optionally to persons under 22 years of age. Membership will be complete in both National and Golden Gate Societies. The members will receive Outdoors Illustrated instead of Audubon Magazine.

(e) Students in school or college who, during their courses, prefer local membership in Golden Gate Society to the joint Student Membership provided for in Section 3, paragraphs (a) and (d) above may be granted a student Local Membership for \$1.00 payable to the Treasurer of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. Student Memberships in existence at the time of adoption of these By-laws at a lower rate, if any, shall be handled as provided in Section 7 following.

—PAUL F. COVEL, *President*

NOVEMBER MEETING

The 490th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, November 13, at 7:30 p. m., in the Rotary Natural Science Center, on Lake Merritt in Oakland, near the duck-feeding area. The speaker will be Harry Adamson who will give an illustrated talk on *Birding in Southeastern Arizona*. Harry is a well-known artist whose paintings of waterfowl in flight have won national recognition. He was formerly a member of our society but now belongs to the Diablo Branch. We welcome him back. Come and bring friends.

Note: A no-host dinner preceding the meeting will be held at Conover's at Perkins and Grand Ave.—near the Science Center—at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome. Note the change in restaurants.

—BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, JANUARY - MARCH, 1959

Sun., Jan. 11 - Tomales Point

Sat., Jan. 24 - Lake Merritt & Joaquin Miller Park

Sat., Feb. 14 - Ritchie Ranch

Sun., Feb. 22 - Richardson Bay

Sat., March 14 - Golden Gate Park & Chain of Lakes

Sun., March 22 - San Joaquin Valley

WANTED: Volunteers to arrange and handle reservations for bus trips.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE, Harold G. Peterson, *Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Alameda, Miss Laurella Love; from Berkeley, Mrs. Marion L. Field, Miss Beverly Guirard (transferred from Travis Audubon Society), Miss Virginia W. Havens, Mrs. G. B. Lewis, Mr. Edward J. Sherburne, Jr. (transferred from Michigan), Miss M. R. Studhalter, Mrs. Franklin B. Wright; from Bloomington, Indiana, Mr. Duane Carmony (transferred from South Bend Audubon Society); from Concord, Mrs. Violet Beitzel; from Livermore, Mr. Henry Maitland; from Oakland, Mr. Bernard S. Greensfelder; from San Francisco, Mr. Louis G. Larsen, Mr. F. William Ludwig; from San Leandro, Mrs. Douglas Mofat; from San Ramon, Mrs. Florence Cornwall.

—ROBERTA J. LONG, *Membership Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

On Sunday, November 9, to CRYSTAL SPRINGS and MOSS BEACH, San Mateo County. This is a fresh water lake bordered by low shrubs and some open grass covered areas. Redhead ducks and Green-winged Teal are likely to be seen.

Meet at dam on Route 5, at 9 a.m. After lunch a side trip will be made to Moss Beach for a study of animals living between tides, such as Sea Urchins and Star Fish. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends. Leader: Howard L. Cogswell, NE 6-1573.

On Saturday, November 22, to ORINDA and SAN PABLO RESERVOIRS. This area is a favorite in the bay region. Large numbers of shorebirds, ducks, and geese winter here because of protection afforded from "No Trespassing" regulations. The oak and shrub covered slopes are good habitat for many land birds. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends. Leader: Peter Veitch, CL 4-2419.

On Sunday, November 30 to CONN LAKE in Napa County. Since 1951 this lake has been on our November or December scheduled trips. Each year this trip has resulted in some unusual birding experiences. About 400 Wood Ducks were seen last year. Meet at the stone bridge on the Silverado Trail about one mile northeast of Napa, at 9:15 a.m. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends. Leader: Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185.

On Sat. and Sun., December 6-7, to WILLOWS and GRIDLEY REFUGES. Saturday, meet at 10 a.m. at the Grey Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge southwest of Gridley. After touring the refuge, drive west to Willows for the night. To reach the refuge from Gridley, drive west on Colusa road about 4 miles, then south on Pennington road to sign on right directing traffic to the refuge. It can also be reached from 99E by turning west at Live Oak. Ask at service stations for directions and road conditions.

Sunday morning, at 9:30, meet at Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge, some 7 miles south of Willows, on Route 99W. Those wishing to make the overnight trip should write for reservations at once, to one of the hotels or motels in or near Willows, such as, Willows Motel. Hunting season will be on so accommodations will be limited. Leader: Harry Adamson, AT 3-2164. (Note: The previously announced date for this trip, November 15-16, was put forward to avoid the Pheasant hunting season.)

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President.....	Paul F. Covel.....	2860 Delaware Street, Oakland 2, KE 6-4120
Vice President.....	Howard L. Cogswell.....	Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland 13, NE 6-1573
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Program Chairman.....	Mrs. Bonnie Smith.....	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 16, OV 1-7635

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way
Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042